

# CHECKLIST FOR EVALUATING WEB SITES



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the URL or Web address of the Web site you are evaluating?

http://\_\_\_\_\_

What is the TITLE of the web site? \_\_\_\_\_

## **AUTHORITY**

Is the author clearly identified? ☐ Yes ☐ No Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

What authorship clues did the url (web address) provide?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> company (.com)              | <input type="checkbox"/> non-profit organization (.org)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> academic institution (.edu) | <input type="checkbox"/> country-specific site (.ca [Canada], .uk [United Kingdom])                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Government (.gov)      | <input type="checkbox"/> personal Web page (ie: <a href="http://www.jamieoliver.com">www.jamieoliver.com</a> ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. military site (.mil)   | <input type="checkbox"/> network of computers (.net)   |

What are the qualifications/credentials of the author or group that created the site?

Title, Degree, Research?

Company they work for or represent?

Biographical info?

Does the web site provide any contact information or means of communication with the author or webmaster? (email, phone, address)

☐ No ☐ Yes Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you find supportive information if you do a search of the author?

☐ No ☐ Yes

## **ACCURACY**

A reliable Web site would be able to confirm the reliability of their information.

Are there links taking you to other sites with the same information?

☐ Yes ☐ Are there any broken links? ☐ No

Have you found other sites with the same information?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Has the site been edited for spelling and grammar?

☐ Yes ☐ No

## **BIAS**

Do the credentials of the author suggest a bias?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Does the site seem to "sell" a point of view?

☐ Yes ☐ No

## **CURRENCY**

**When was the web site last revised, modified, or updated?**

☐ They did not supply a date    ☐ It was updated on:

**Is currency important to the type of information available on this web site?**

☐ No    ☐ Yes    Explain:

**Are the supporting links current?**

☐ Yes    ☐ No

## **DESIGN/PRESENTATION**

Design, organization and ease of use are important considerations. If the pages are slow to load or difficult to navigate, search and read, then their contribution and usefulness will be lost.

**In your opinion, how does the web site appear overall? Check all that apply:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well designed and organized            | <input type="checkbox"/> Poorly designed and unorganized          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easy to read and navigate              | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult to read and navigate           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HELP screens are available             | <input type="checkbox"/> HELP screens are unavailable             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A search feature/site map is available | <input type="checkbox"/> A search feature/site map is unavailable |

## **PURPOSE AND CONTENT**

Determine the purpose of the Web site by looking closely at the content. Some sites provide links to information detailing the purpose in creating the Web site, while the purpose of others might not be obvious at first. Take the time to explore the Web site to determine if the information is mostly subjective (biased or opinionated), objective (factual), or mixed.

**What is the purpose of the web page or site? Check all that apply:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A personal Web page   | <input type="checkbox"/> An advertisement or electronic commerce (selling something) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A company or organization Web site                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> A forum for ideas, opinions or points of view               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A forum for education/public service/scholarly/research information | <input type="checkbox"/> Other? Explain:   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment   |  |

**What is the point of view of the web site?**

- ☐ Balanced, objective or factual information
- ☐ Biased, subjective or opinionated statements (Are the arguments well supported?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No)
- ☐ Both objective and subjective information
- ☐ An advertisement disguised as information
- ☐ Other? Explain:

**Does this web site provide valuable information for the topic you are exploring?**

☐ Yes    ☐ No

## **RESULT**

Based on your findings, is this Web site authentic?

☐ Yes    ☐ No    Explain: